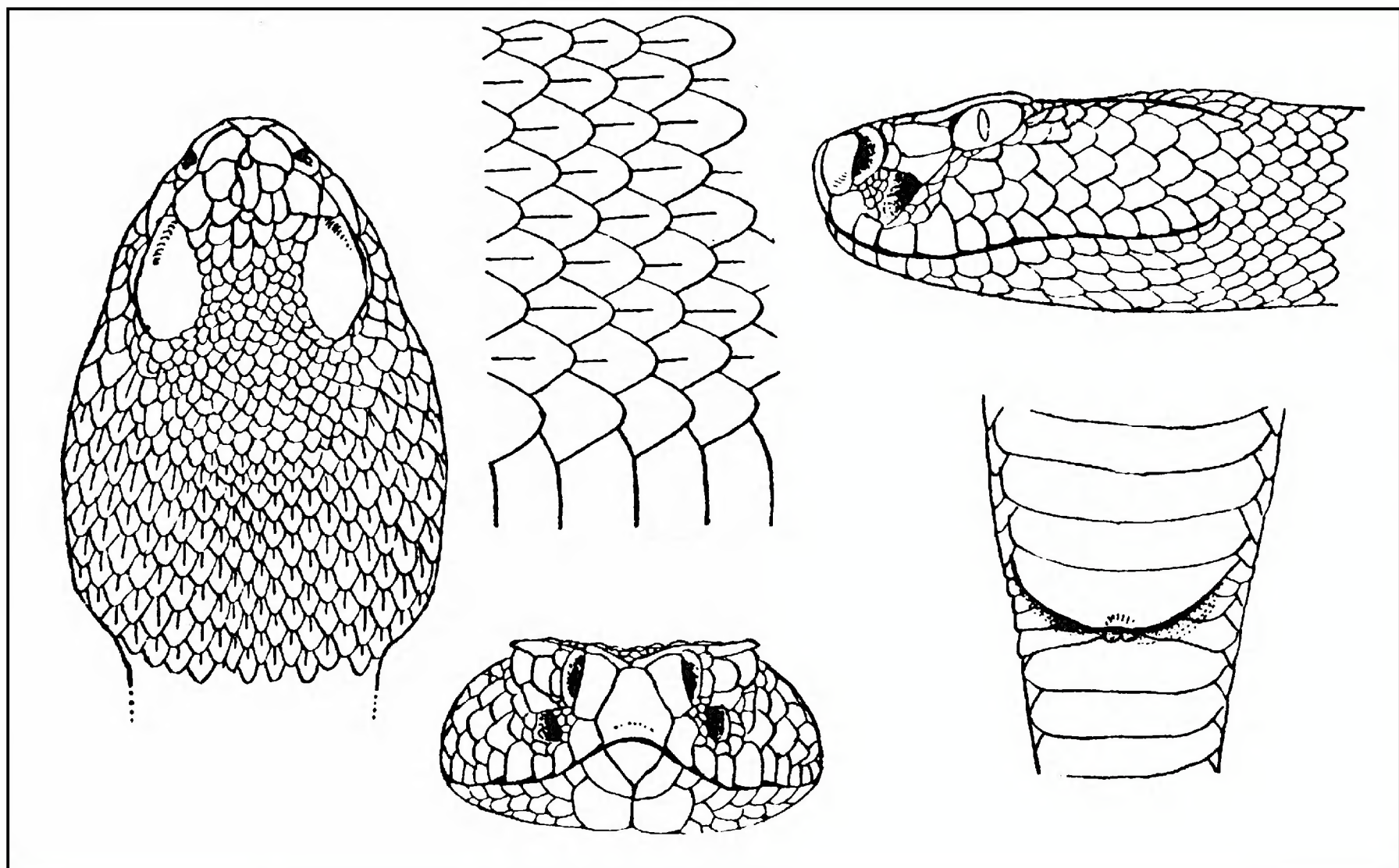

BULLETIN

of the

Chicago Herpetological Society



Volume 31, Number 9
September 1996



BULLETIN OF THE CHICAGO HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 31, Number 9

September 1996

Captive Propagation and Reproduction in a Blind European Pond Turtle, <i>Emys orbicularis</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	Jef Nijs	165
<i>Smuggled-2</i> : An Update	Raymond Hoser	166
Herpetological Type Material from Nuevo León, México	Ernest A. Liner	168
HerPET-POURRI	Ellin Beltz	172
Herpetology 1996		175
The Tympanum	Jeff Boundy; Joe Martinez	177
Advertisements		178
News and Announcements		180

Cover: Timber rattlesnake, *Crotalus horridus*. Drawing from “The Crocodilians, Lizards, and Snakes of North America” by Edward Drinker Cope, 1900, Part II of the Annual Report of the U.S. National Museum for the Year Ending June 30, 1898.

STAFF

Editor: Michael A. Dloogatch
Copy editor: Jill Horwich
Advertising Manager: Ralph Shepstone

1996 CHS Board of Directors

Chris Lechowicz, President
Steve Spitzer, Vice-President
Gary Fogel, Treasurer
Audrey Vanderlinden, Recording Secretary
Brian Jones, Corresponding Secretary
Michael A. Dloogatch, Publications Secretary
John Driscoll, Membership Secretary
Art Nohlberg, Sergeant-at-Arms
Gary Kostka, Member-at-Large
Jennifer Picciola, Member-at-large
Jack Schoenfelder, Member-at-Large
Jenny Vollman, Member-at-Large

The Chicago Herpetological Society is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the state of Illinois. Its purposes are education, conservation and the advancement of herpetology. Meetings are announced in this publication, and are normally held at 7:30 P.M., the last Wednesday of each month.

Membership in the CHS includes a subscription to the monthly *Bulletin*. Annual dues are: Individual Membership, \$22.00; Family Membership, \$25.00; Sustaining Membership, \$50.00; Contributing Membership, \$100.00; Institutional Membership, \$38.00. Remittance must be made in U.S. funds. Subscribers outside the U.S. must add \$12.00 for postage. Send membership dues or address changes to: Chicago Herpetological Society, Membership Secretary, 2060 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614. Publications are sent to U.S. members via third class bulk mail; the post office does not forward such mail, even if a special request is made to forward magazines.

Manuscripts should be submitted in duplicate, typewritten and double spaced. Alternatively, submission of manuscripts in the form of IBM PC-compatible or Macintosh format diskettes is encouraged. Manuscripts and letters concerning editorial business should be sent to: Chicago Herpetological Society, Publications Secretary, 2060 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614. **Back issues** are limited but are available from the Publications Secretary for \$2.50 per issue postpaid.

The BULLETIN of the Chicago Herpetological Society (ISSN 0009-3564) is published monthly by the Chicago Herpetological Society. Copyright © 1996.

Captive Propagation and Reproduction in a Blind European Pond Turtle, *Emys orbicularis* (Linnaeus 1758)

Jef Nijs
Vaartdijk 137
B-1981 Hofstade
Belgium

For eight years I have maintained an old and blind female European pond turtle (carapace length 123 mm, 370 g) in captivity. During that period her carapace increased only 1 mm in length and she gained 50 g in weight. The turtle is probably a wild-captured specimen but her exact geographic origin is unknown. Likely she did not originate from central France (La Brenne), because in that part of the country *Emys orbicularis* usually grows to a larger size (Nijs et al., 1991). Also unknown is how long the *Emys* had been kept in captivity by the previous owner(s).

Two missing eyeballs account for the blindness. The exact reason for this injury is not known but it is surely not congenital. The carapace shows signs of two old but healed (fire?) injuries to the scutes, leaving underlying carapacial bones exposed.

The turtle is kept in an aquaterrarium with some midland painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta marginata*) and a couple of *Kinosternon subrubrum hippocrepis*. Water temperatures range from 21°C in the winter to 30°C during warm summer periods. Most of the daytime is spent on the land part, basking under a 100-W spot. Remarkably the turtle becomes very alert when the other turtles are fed and she goes immediately into the water when hungry. How she "knows" that food is provided remains obscure but I suppose it is by smell. She is fed commercial cat food by forceps twice a week. The food is pushed against her nose and the turtle snaps it. There are two periods of several weeks (one in winter and one in summer) during which food is not accepted.

Every spring a male is introduced into the enclosure for some weeks, resulting in several matings. On 16 October 1990, four brittle-shelled eggs were found on the land part.

Egg dimensions were 28.5–29.2 mm × 18.5–19.0 mm. One egg showed cracks and was losing small amounts of yolk. The weight of this egg was 6.4 g. The shell of this egg was intentionally broken open, and the whole egg was dried at 50°C. Dry weight was 2.05 g or 32% of the weight of the fresh-laid egg. The other three eggs were incubated on dry sand at 27–28°C and at a relative humidity of 90–100% (Budde, 1980). White patch formation, the first sign of fertilization, appeared after two days in all three eggs. They were candled at least once a week in the course of the incubation to monitor embryonic development (Foust and Riemer, 1986). After one week the embryonic disc could be observed and one week later, blood vessels could be distinguished. The eggs hatched after 58–59 days. Incubation time was defined as the time to date of pipping (Gutzke et al., 1984). The small yolk sac was absorbed within two days. Carapace length of the hatchlings was 25.5–26.0 mm. Their weight was 4.7 g, or 73% of the weight of a fresh-laid egg. Their eyes and sight seemed normal and small water insects, offered as food, were taken readily. The caruncle was lost after three to four weeks.

Beginning in February 1992, eggs could be palpated in the abdominal cavity of the same female. Four I.U. of oxytocin were injected (Ewert and Legler, 1978), but no eggs were laid. Three more injections of the same quantity of the hormone (every week following) were given without result. On 8 March, one egg (30.5 × 19.3 mm, 6.8 g) was found in the water. It did not develop when incubated. It is supposed that the other eggs were eaten by the painted turtles or by the mud turtles. On 2 January 1993, three more eggs were found on the land part but none of them developed when incubated. Most likely the eggs became overripe in the oviducts. Since then no more eggs have been found.

Literature Cited

- Budde, H. 1980. Verbesselter Brutbehälter zur Zeitigung von Schildkröten-Gelegen. Salamandra 16:177-180.
- Ewert, M. A., and J. M. Legler. 1978. Hormonal induction of oviposition in turtles. Herpetologica 34:314-318.
- Foust, A., and D. N. Riemer. 1986. Candling turtle eggs. Herpetol. Review 17:(2):43-44.
- Gutzke, W. H. N., G. L. Paukstis and G. C. Packard 1984. Pipping versus hatching as indices of time of incubation in reptiles. J. Herpetology 18(4): 494-496.
- Nijs, J., C. Navez and J. Merckx. 1991. The European pond turtle, *Emys orbicularis*, in La Brenne, France. Bull. Chicago Herp. Soc. 26(3):50-53.

Smuggled-2: An Update

**Raymond Hoser
41 Village Avenue
Doncaster, Victoria 3108
Australia**

Readers of my series of excerpts from *Smuggled-2* may recall the repeated references to Queensland wildlife official Michael Anthony Chep in the first two parts of the series [Bull. Chicago Herp. Soc. 30(4):72-77 and 30(5):93-96]. Chep was named as being a disgraced ex-cop from Queensland. He had left the force to avoid disciplinary charges being taken against him. He joined the wildlife department two days later on May 5, 1993, and appears to have run amuck since then. He was apparently employed by Charles Keith Stafford, himself a former policeman who had left the force after allegedly being involved with self-confessed corrupt policeman Jack Herbert and others. Stafford was of course adversely named in the Fitzgerald police corruption inquiry.

Chep also had faced a series of assault allegations and charges while on the police force, as well as further allegations of theft and other serious matters. Chep was the wildlife officer who led the armed raid on Roger Spencer of Shelbourne Bay to bust him for having a wooden crocodile. He then apparently lied to the media about his reason for being involved in the exercise, stating that the abortive raid had been a part of a training exercise in the area and that he and his men were in the area on other matters. In reality according to fellow ranger Pat Shears, Chep and his men drove straight to Spencer's house from Cooktown, did the raid and then went straight home. Shears later stated that Chep "couldn't be trusted." Chep was allegedly one of the key players in the foxtail palm racket and the alleged cover-up by officials after the racket was reported in the media. Chep also allegedly advised other officers to sabotage official inquiries into the matter.

Chep was also noted in the series of articles as being a key player in the Operation Birdman raids against keeper Bob Buckley, which resulted in Buckley's green tree pythons being seized by the wildlife officials.

Readers will recall that Buckley had faced numerous charges and that the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) had failed to convict him of any. Readers will also recall that the wildlife officials were ordered to return the seized snakes but had refused to do so. Instead they had appealed the matter. That was about where my articles ended.

On Friday, November 24, the appeal against Buckley came up for hearing at Cairns Court. The result was all in Buckley's favor. You see, the day before the hearing DEH formally abandoned their appeal. At court the wildlife officials, (including Chep) were ordered to return all "exhibits," which included all Buckley's snakes (green tree pythons) within seven days and to pay \$10,000 toward his legal expenses.

However, this does not spell the end of the saga for Buckley. You may recall that a large number of the snakes had allegedly died while being held at Sydney's Taronga Zoo.

Buckley is now in the unfortunate position of waiting to see what snakes he gets back (how many), their health and so on.

As of December 17, 1995, the state of play was roughly as follows: The adult snakes seized from Buckley had all been returned. None of the 27 young snakes had been. In spite of conflicting reports emanating from Taronga Zoo on the status of these snakes over the previous two years it seems fairly safe to assume Buckley will have NONE returned.

In the last week (December 1995), Buckley's lawyer, Tony Enriken received a vague three-page letter from the Zoo's vet stating that all the snakes had died while in custody at Taronga Zoo. While the letter appears to conflict with other material that has emanated from the same zoo over the past two years in relation to this matter, Buckley has indicated he will probably not pursue the fate of these snakes much further. He instead seeks to launch a compensation case against the Queensland DEH. This is because they were the group who wrongly seized the snakes and therefore are legally culpable from Buckley's perspective; (the zoo had only been holding the snakes on the Department's behalf).

That all 27 young snakes died at the zoo within two years is not believed by many people on the basis of various reports emanating from the zoo and even the veterinary department itself. It is clear that many snakes survived for some period after being seized as evidenced by statements by zookeeper Matthew Millgate at the time of Buckley's September 1994 court case, some eight months after the raid, when about eight were allegedly still alive. A number of visitors to the zoo had also reported seeing numbers of Buckley's snakes being held in "off-display" areas. Furthermore, the zoo and its keepers are thought to have adequate expertise to keep such numbers of such snakes alive without incurring a 100 percent mortality rate. Having said this, it is likely that the real fate of these snakes will never be known.

It is also noted that during 1981-1982 a document purporting to be a veterinary report from the same zoo gave false reasons for the alleged death of a scrub python that had been seized from a private collection.

Things are further complicated at the Sydney end by a related series of events. It has recently been alleged by a number of people that at least some of the green tree pythons taken from Buckley had not in fact died as alleged in the earlier court case. Instead it has been alleged that the snakes were written off as dead by a junior zoo keeper (of unknown identity) at Taronga Zoo and then sold on to other Sydney-based private keepers for about \$1,000 each. At least one sworn statement to this effect has been made to State Police, but as yet appears uncorroborated by other "hard" evidence.

These allegations have been further (partially) corroborated

from various reliable sources, but may in fact be a distortion of similar actual events, which may in fact not incriminate the zoo or its staff in any way. For example the zoo and its staff may have tried to offload Buckley's snakes in the mistaken belief that snakes were theirs to dispose of following advice to that effect from Queensland DEH officials or elsewhere.

While talking green tree pythons, NPWS/NSW, Queensland and Victoria officials did a series of raids in relation to these snakes in recent months, seizing a number of captive-bred green tree pythons, apparently the result of a NSW breeding. At the time of the raids and since, NPWS/NSW, who led the operation, have not disclosed their basis for seizing these snakes and whether or not the keepers involved were to be charged. The keepers have now engaged a high-profile lawyer to force NPWS/NSW to return the snakes.

A series of statements were recently made, including from sources within NPWS/NSW, that the snakes seized from these keepers were in fact Buckley's snakes and had been illegally passed on by one or more keepers at Taronga Zoo. On face value, the story seemed plausible and was reported widely in Australia as fact. The story also noted that the keepers who'd had these snakes taken would be charged over the matter as per the above story.

While not in a position to comment on the status of NPWS/NSW enquiries, seizures, media releases and so on, I can state quite emphatically that the snakes seized from the keepers in the recent NPWS/NSW operation, were NOT Buckley's. This can be shown by various means, including the fact that the snakes seized by NPWS/NSW were born two years earlier and far too large to have been born as late as early 1994, which is when Buckley's were produced.

In relation to green tree pythons and seizures by officials, there appears to be a deliberate campaign of misinformation going on at the moment. It appears that the main reason for this is NPWS/NSW efforts to unduly blacken the names and reputations of those they seize reptiles from before any legal battles begin, if in fact matters proceed that far.

Notwithstanding the above, further developments on all green tree python matters are likely, as in New South Wales and Queensland, some state politicians have taken side with the keepers who have lost their snakes and are lobbying NPWS for the immediate return of them.

Returning to Mike Chep of Queensland, he hasn't been idle either. In August 1995, I received a one-page letter from Chep which stated:

I am now in possession of two articles written by you and published in the Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society. One of these articles refers to an operation known as Operation Birdman and the other article refers to matters concerning Foxtail Palms. These extracts purport to be contained in a book entitled "Smuggled Two - An Australian Perspective". I wish to advise you that the information contained in those articles is false and defamatory. Consequently I wish to advise you that should these articles be further published additional advice will be sought with a view to having legal action taken. Yours Faithfully.

I faxed and posted a two-page reply to Chep on August 8, which stated:

I ask you to IN WRITING, do the following:

- 1/ Detail which facts in the articles in relation to yourself are false.
- 2/ Provide written corrections to those facts along with supporting documentation.
- 3/ Specify what imputations in the allegedly false statements are defamatory.
- 4/ Particularize why there does not exist a statutory defence in relation to the defamatory imputations you presumably assert.
- 5/ Specify what actions (if any) you have taken against the Sunday Mail Newspaper and Member for Burdekin, Mr. Doug Slack, who are the primary sources for most of the statements made about yourself in the articles referred to in your letter.

As you would know, it is not appropriate for you to make serious allegations against myself without providing the specific facts to substantiate those allegations. I have directed the publisher to halt the pre-publication process of Smuggled-2 for the relevant sections of text for fourteen days from the above date pending your furnishing me with the above particulars within that time frame. In the event that a satisfactory reply is not received, no alterations will be made to the manuscript. If you provide me with the documentation requested above, it is likely that the publisher's lawyers will direct that the text of the relevant chapter/s will be altered accordingly.

I ask you to take this matter seriously with due regard to the rules of procedural fairness and reply in writing before 22nd August 1995.

A four-page letter of reply dated August 10, 1995, was received from Chep along with six pages of copied material. In spite of the length of Chep's reply it did little if anything to back up his assertion that my original articles were either false or defamatory. In fact his non-provision of sought material probably served to confirm that the articles were true and correct in their entirety. Statements in Chep's letter included:

Please note that I am in possession of information of which you do not. Unfortunately this information cannot be released to you as it forms the basis of official government records. . . .

and

The true facts in relation to Operation Birdman are contained in government records and as such cannot be released to you. . . .

The final result was no information to contradict a word of what I had written. In fact Chep himself confirmed that he had faced numerous serious charges while a policeman and had been subject to numerous adverse allegations since, allegations which he had not been able to refute with evidence.

The earlier above-quoted statements by Chep to myself were not accepted by me as an excuse for non-provision of material correcting the alleged faults in my articles. The material I sought from Chep related to his character and had no relevance to ongoing criminal investigations or his current role in such. Chep's alleged withholding of information allegedly clearing him of adverse allegations could only be taken to imply that such material does not exist. As far as the Birdman saga is concerned, Buckley's more recent court victory, in November 1995 (the DEH appeal cited above) further confirms that there appears to be nothing to exonerate Chep from his own wrongdoings in relation to that matter.

On August 20, 1995, I sent Chep a lengthy letter repeating

my original requests (quoted above) along with a 46-point summary of allegations against Chep or involving him as per the two original articles named by him, and including more recent and highly adverse allegations made against him by fellow wildlife officials and others that had been published elsewhere.

At the time of writing no proper reply had been received, although a threatening letter had been sent by a lawyer of Chep's, Mr. Robin Smith.

As an author, I would be duty-bound to publish corrections to false or misleading information and have openly invited Chep to provide information to allow me to. However no such information has been provided and therefore the recent letters from Chep can only be taken as an attempt to suppress truthful and adverse information.

In relation to Chep's alleged withholding of material, Doug Slack (MP), confirmed that Chep had no legal power to withhold such material if it in fact existed and was lawfully requested. Slack agreed it could only be concluded that no such material existed.

More recently DEH ranger Pat Shears has made a series of new and highly adverse allegations against Chep. These are not repeated here, but have been documented elsewhere. An investigative journalist, Adrian Walker, has also made a number of allegations against Chep in relation to aiding and abetting drug smuggling cartels, including closing off a bay on Cape York to allegedly facilitate a drug importation and in a separate incident, tipping off a boat carrying drugs heading for a federal interception, so that the boat could change course and avoid being busted. This was allegedly done by Chep commandeering a helicopter to fly to the boat to warn the crew. As yet these newer allegations are unconfirmed, but have been referred to Federal and State authorities. It can be presumed

that Chep will again deny any wrongdoing.

In relation to Bill Zingelmann, who alleged corruption in the Queensland DEH and Police, including Chep, he made further allegations to the media. Attempts were made to gag him and this in turn became the subject of a Federal Senate Select Committee into Unresolved Whistleblowers Cases. The 152-page report for this inquiry was handed down/published in October 1995. It found in favor of Zingelmann.

Other recent matters include a case by SA/NPWS against reptile keeper Nick Wilkins. Apparently upon instructions from NPWS/NSW officials John Cook, Michael Potts and Hamilton Lowe, South Australia officials seized a large number of pythons from Wilkins at his new South Australian address. The case was finalized in November 1995, with the magistrate ordering SA/NPWS to return Wilkins all his snakes.

In New Guinea a company that was set up to export snake venoms and breed threatened reptiles was closed down in November 1995, after it became involved in a scandal involving Australians, Americans and senior Papua New Guinea officials. The company, called Austoxin, allegedly became a front for the smuggling of protected pythons, including green tree pythons, Boelen's pythons and ringed pythons, as well as other fauna to the United States. A key backer in the scam was allegedly the deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Chris Haiveta. At the same time this scam was unfolding in the media, it was reported that Haiveta was simultaneously denying access to lifesaving antivenom to a number of Papua New Guinea citizens. At the present time, most of the players in the operation are known by name and are also well known within reptile circles in both Australia and the United States. However, what is still unclear is who was knowingly involved in illegal activities and who was conned or inadvertently taken along for the ride.

Bull. Chicago Herp. Soc. 31(9):168-171, 1996

Herpetological Type Material from Nuevo León, México

Ernest A. Liner
310 Malibou Boulevard
Houma, Louisiana 70364-2598

Abstract

A listing of the herpetological type material and localities from Nuevo León, México is given. Of the 28 taxa described 16 are still considered valid. The present taxonomy is given when different as described.

While conducting field surveys into the herpetofauna of Nuevo León, México I compiled a listing of all original descriptions as applied to the state was compiled along with their present status. This listing is given in chronological order according to their dates or page priorities under their present name which is in **boldface italics**. The first use of the present name is given after the type locality if different from the original description. Pages on which the taxon was described are given in **boldface** in parentheses at the end of the citation

except when the whole article was devoted to its description. The present status of the types is given when known. Twenty-eight taxa have been named at the species or subspecies level from 1854 through 1995 and of these one is a *nomen nudum* (*Crotalus durissus neoleonensis*), one has since had its type locality restricted to Texas (*Sonora semiannulata*) and 10 have been placed in synonymy (*Pituophis mexicanus*, *Cnemidophorus octolineatus*, *Nerodia Couchii*, *Contia taylori*, *Coronella leonis*, *Cnemidophorus gularis meeki*, *Syrrhophus latodactylus*,

Syrrhophus smithi, *Tantilla wilcoxi rubricata* and *Crotalus lepidus castaneus*). Of the 28 forms named, 16 are still considered valid either at the species or subspecies level. Four taxa, *Sceloporus torquatus binocularis*, *Rhadinaea montana*, *Elgaria parva* and *Sceloporus jarrovi cyaneus*, are endemic to the state as presently known. An impressive record for a state that has long been neglected.

***Pituophis catenifer affinis* Hallowell, 1852**

Pituophis mexicanus Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854.
Duméril, André Marie Constant, Gabriel Bibron and Auguste Henre André Duméril. 1854. *Erpétologie générale ou histoire naturelle complète des reptiles*. Librairie Encyclopédique de Roret, Paris. 7(1):xvi-780. (236-238, pl. 66)
Type: Holotype is in the Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris; a cotype is listed as USNM 1415 by Cochran (1961).
Type locality: "Mexique." Restricted by Smith and Taylor to Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León, México.
Pituophis catenifer affinis Smith and Mittleman, 1943:248.

***Bufo speciosus* Girard, 1854**

Bufo speciosus Girard, 1854.
Girard, Charles. 1854. A list of the North American bufonids with diagnosis of new species. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia* 7:85-87. (86)
Type: 4 cotypes, USNM 2608, 2610, 2611, 131559. USNM 2611 and 131559 are from Pesqueria Grande (= Villa de Garcia), Nuevo León, México.
Type locality: Valley of the Rio Bravo [Rio Grande del Norte and not uncommon in the province of New Leon {Nuevo León}].

***Sceloporus couchi* Baird, 1858 (1859)**

Sceloporus couchi Baird, 1858 (1859).
Baird, Spencer F. 1858 (1859). Description of new genera and species of North American lizards in the museum of the Smithsonian Institution. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia* 10:253-256. (254)
Type: USNM 2739 (9 cotypes).
Type locality: Santa Catarina, Nuevo León, México.

***Cnemidophorus inornatus inornatus* Baird, 1858 (1859).**

Cnemidophorus inornatus Baird, 1858 (1859)
Baird, Spencer F. 1858 (1859). Description of new genera and species of North American lizards in the museum of the Smithsonian Institution. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia* 10:253-256. (255)
Type: USNM 3032. Two cotypes. Wright and Lowe (1993) tagged a specimen 3032A and designated this as the lectotype; Axtell (1961) had attempted the same thing, as did Burger (1950) in abortive attempts.
Type locality: Pesqueria Grande (= Villa de Garcia), Nuevo León, México.
Cnemidophorus inornatus inornatus Axtell, 1961:151.

***Cnemidophorus inornatus inornatus* Baird, 1858 (1859).**

Cnemidophorus octolineatus Baird, 1858 (1859)
Baird, Spencer F. 1858 (1859). Description of new genera and species of North American lizards in the museum of the

Smithsonian Institution. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia* 10:253-256. (255)

Type: USNM 3009.

Type locality: Pesqueria Grande (= Villa de Garcia), Nuevo León, México.

Cnemidophorus inornatus inornatus Axtell, 1961:151.

***Thamnophis cyrtopsis cyrtopsis* (Kennicott, 1860)**

Eutaenia cyrtopsis Kennicott, 1860.
Kennicott, Robert. 1860. Descriptions of new species of North American serpents in the museum of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia* 12:328-338. (333-334)
Type: USNM 8067.
Type locality: Rinconada, Coahuila, México. Corrected by Conant (1968) to 20 mi NE Ramos Arizpe, Coahuila in Nuevo León, México.
Thamnophis cyrtopsis cyrtopsis Cope, 1892:656.

***Nerodia erythrogaster transversa* Hallowell, 1852**

Nerodia Couchii Kennicott, 1860.
Kennicott, Robert. 1860. Descriptions of new species of North American serpents in the museum of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia* 12:328-338. (335)
Type: USNM 1314, 1319. Cope (1900:976) designated USNM 1314 as the holotype.
Type Locality: San Diego, New [Nuevo] León and Santa Caterina [= Santa Catarina], New [Nuevo] León, México, Nuevo León, México. Type locality restricted to Santa Caterina (= Santa Catarina) by Smith and Taylor (1950).
Nerodia erythrogaster transversa Bernard and Brown, 1977:149.

***Sceloporus serrifer cyanogenys* Cope, 1885**

Sceloporus torquatus cyanogenys Cope, 1885
Cope, Edward Drinker. 1885. A contribution to the herpetology of Mexico. *Proc. Amer. Philos. Soc.* 22:379-404. (402).
Type: USNM 31373-31377, 5 cotypes.
Type locality: Monterrey, Nuevo León, México.
Sceloporus serrifer cyanogenys Olson, 1987:165.

***Sonora semiannulata* Baird and Girard, 1853**

Contia taylori Boulenger, 1894.
Boulenger, George Albert. 1894. Catalogue of the snakes in the British Museum (Natural History). Board of Trustees, British Museum (Natural History), London. 2:xi-382. (265)
Type: Two syntypes. Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist. Holotype not designated but 1946.1.5.39 from Nuevo León and 1946.1.5.57-59 from Duval Co., Texas, are recorded. Specimen 1946.1.5.57-59 is the one figured and measurements given in the original description.
Type locality: Texas, North México; Duval Co., Texas, and Nuevo León. Specimen 1946.1.5.57-59 is the specimen figured and measurements given in the description. Restricted to Duval Co., Texas.
Sonora semiannulata Baird and Girard, 1853:117.

Lampropeltis mexicana (Garman, 1884)
Coronella leonis Günther, 1893.
 Günther, Albert C. L. G. 1885-1902. Reptilia and Batrachia.
 In *Biologia Centrali-Americana*. (Salvin, Osbert and
 Frederick DuCane Godman, eds.). R. H. Porter and Dulau
 & Co., London. xx-326. (1893:110, pl. 30, fig. a).
 Type: Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist.
 Type locality: México, Nuevo León.
Lampropeltis mexicana Blanchard, 1920:7.

Tantilla atriceps (Günther, 1895)
Homalocranium atriceps Günther, 1895.
 Günther, Albert C. L. G. 1885-1902. Reptilia and Batrachia.
 In *Biologia Centrali-Americana*. (Salvin, Osbert and
 Frederick DuCane Godman, eds.). R. H. Porter and Dulau
 & Co., London. xx-326. (1895:146-147).
 Type: Two syntypes in Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist. nos. 1946.1.8-81
 and 89.1.8-82 (previously 89.7.3.36 and 79.7.3.37 resp.)
 Type locality: México, Nuevo León.
Tantilla atriceps Amaral, 1929 (1930):219.

Cnemidophorus gularis gularis Baird and Girard, 1852
Cnemidophorus gularis meeki Gadow, 1906.
 Gadow, Hans. 1906. A contribution to the study of evolution
 based upon the Mexican species of *Cnemidophorus*. *Proc.*
Zool. Soc. London 1:277-375. (332-334)
 Type: CNHM 1294 lectotype selected by Smith and Taylor
 (1950).
 Type locality: Montemorelos, Nuevo León, México.
Cnemidophorus gularis gularis Cope, 1892:334.

Sceloporus parvus parvus Smith, 1934
Sceloporus parvus Smith, 1934.
 Smith, Hobart M. 1934. Descriptions of new lizards of genus
Sceloporus from Mexico and southern United States.
Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci. 37:263-284. (263-267)
 Type: EHT-HMS 7120, now FMNH 100125.
 Type locality: Hills 5 mi W Sabinas Hidalgo.
Sceloporus parvus parvus Smith, 1937:3-4.

Sceloporus torquatus binocularis Dunn, 1936
Sceloporus binocularis Dunn, 1936.
 Dunn, Emmett R. 1936. The amphibians and reptiles of the
 Mexican Expedition of 1934. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila-*
delphia 88:471-477. (474-475).
 Type: ANSP 20032.
 Type locality: Trail from Pablillo to Alamar, Nuevo León,
 México.
Sceloporus torquatus binocularis Smith and Taylor, 1950:122,
 126, 224.

Eleutherodactylus longipes (Baird, In Emory, 1859)
Syrhophus latodactylus Taylor 1939 (1940).
 Taylor, Edward H. 1939 (1940). New species of Mexican
 Anura. *Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull.* 26:385-405. (397-401)
 Type: EHT-HMS 6805, now FMNH 100063.
 Type locality: Huasteca Canyon, about 15 km W Monterrey,
 Nuevo León, México.
Eleutherodactylus longipes Kellogg, 1932:107 (part).

Eleutherodactylus guttilatus (Cope, 1879)
Syrhophus smithi, Taylor, 1940.
 Taylor, Edward H. 1940. Two new anuran amphibians from
 Mexico. *Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus.* 89:43-47. (43-45, pl. 1)
 Type: USNM 108594.
 Type locality: 15 mi W Galeana, Nuevo León, México.
Eleutherodactylus guttilatus Hedges, In Woods, ed.,
 1989:318-319.

Crotalus pricei miquihuanus Gloyd, 1940.
Crotalus triseriatus miquihuanus Gloyd, 1940.
 Gloyd, Howard K. 1940. The Rattlesnakes, Genera *Sistrurus*
 and *Crotalus*. A Study in Zoogeography and Evolution.
Spec. Publ. Chicago Acad. Sci. (4):vii-269. (102-104).
 Type: FMNH 30850.
 Type locality: Cerro Potosí, nr. Galeana, Nuevo León,
 México.
Crotalus pricei miquihuanus Smith, 1946:79.

Pseudoeurycea galeanae (Taylor, 1941)
Bolitoglossa galeanae Taylor, 1941.
 Taylor, E. H. 1941. Two new species of Mexican plethodon-
 tid salamanders. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington* 54:81-85.
 (83-85)
 Type: EHT-HMS 17146, now FMNH 100113.
 Type locality: nr. Galeana. Corrected to 15 mi W Galeana,
 Nuevo León, México, by Cochran (1961).
Pseudoeurycea galeanae Taylor, 1944:209.

Tantilla wilcoxi Stejneger, 1902.
Tantilla wilcoxi rubricata Smith, 1942.
 Smith, Hobart M. 1942. A resume of Mexican snakes of the
 genus *Tantilla*. *Zoologica* 27:33-42. (40-41).
 Type: USNM 110399.
 Type locality: 15 mi SE Galeana. Corrected by Cochran
 (1961) to west of Galeana, Nuevo León, México.
Tantilla wilcoxi Stejneger, 1902.

Rhadinaea montana Smith, 1944.
Rhadinaea montana Smith, 1944.
 Smith, Hobart M. 1944. Snakes of the Hoogstraal ex-
 peditions to northern Mexico. *Publ. Field Mus. Nat. Hist.,*
Zool. Ser. 29:135-152. (146-148).
 Type: FMNH 30826.
 Type locality: Ojo de Agua, Galeana, Nuevo León, México.
 Liner (in press) has given additional information on the loca-
 tion of this spring.

Scincella silvicolium caudaequinae Smith, 1950.
Leiopisma caudaequinae Smith, 1950.
 Smith, Hobart M. 1951. A new species of *Leiopisma*
 (Reptilia: Sauria) from Mexico. *Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull.*
 34:195-200.
 Type: UIMNH 10131.
 Type locality: Horsetail Falls, 25 mi S Monterrey, Nuevo
 León, México.
Scincella silvicolium caudaequinae Darling and Smith,
 1954:190-191.

Chiropterotriton priscus Rabb, 1956.
Chiropterotriton prisca Rabb, 1956.
 Rabb, George B. 1956. A new plethodontid salamander from
 Nuevo León, Mexico. *Fieldiana, Zool.* **39**:11-20.
 Type: CNHM 95999.
 Type locality: Cerro Potosí, nr. Ojo de Agua, about 11 mi
 WNW Galeana, Nuevo León, México.

Sceloporus samcolemani Smith and Hall, 1974.
Sceloporus scalaris samcolemani Smith and Hall, 1974.
 Smith, Hobart M. and William P. Hall. 1974. Contributions
 to the concepts of reproductive cycles and the systematics
 of the *scalaris* group of the lizard genus *Sceloporus*. *Great
 Basin Nat.* **34**:97-104. (100-104)
 Type: UMMZ 124670.
 Type locality: Between Providencia and La Paz, Nuevo León,
 México.
Sceloporus samcolemani Smith, Watkins-Colwell, Liner and
 Chiszar, 1996.

Crotalus durissus totonacus Gloyd and Kauffeld, 1940
Crotalus durissus neoleonensis Harris and Simmons, 1978.
 Harris, Herbert S., Jr. and Robert S. Simmons. 1978. A
 preliminary account of the rattlesnakes with the description
 of four new subspecies. *Bull. Maryland Herpetol. Soc.*
14:105-211. (111, 146)
 Type: UANL 463.
 Type locality: Las Adjuntas, Santiago, Nuevo León, México.
 Remarks: *Crotalus durissus neoleonensis* is considered a
nomen nudum.

Crotalus lepidus lepidus (Kennicott, 1861)
Crotalus lepidus castaneus Zertuche and Treviño, 1978.
 Zertuche, J. Juliá and Carlos H. Treviño S. 1978. Una nueva
 subespecie de *Crotalus lepidus* encontrada en Nuevo Leon.
Mem. II Congreso Nac. Zoologia. (286-293)
 Type: UANL 1755.

Type locality: Paraje las Huertas, Mpio. de Monterrey,
 Nuevo León, México.
Crotalus lepidus lepidus Gloyd, 1936:4-5.

Elgaria parva (Knight and Scudday, 1985)
Gerrhonotus parvus Knight and Scudday, 1985
 Knight, R. Alec and James F. Scudday. 1985. A new *Ger-
 rhonotus* (Lacertilia: Anguidae) from the Sierra Madre
 Oriental, Nuevo León, Mexico. *Southwest. Nat.* **30**:89-94.
 Type: SRSU 5538.
 Type locality: 3 km SE Galeana, Nuevo León, Mexico.
Elgaria parva Smith, 1986:21.

Sceloporus jarrovi cyaneus Treviño-Soldaña, 1988.
Sceloporus jarrovi cyaneus Treviño-Soldaña, 1988.
 Treviño-Soldaña, Carlos Humberto. 1988. A new montane
 lizard (*Sceloporus jarrovi cyaneus*) from Nuevo León,
 México. *Rev. Biol. Trop.* **36**:407-411.
 Type: UANL 332.
 Type locality: Cañón de la Presa Boca, Santiago, Nuevo
 León, México.

Sceloporus chaneyi Liner and Dixon, 1992
Sceloporus chaneyi Liner and Dixon, 1992.
 Liner, Ernest A. and James R. Dixon. 1992. A new species
 of the *Sceloporus scalaris* group from Cerro Pena Nevada,
 Nuevo Leon, Mexico (Sauria: Iguanidae). *Texas J. Sci.*
44:421-427.
 Type: TCWC 69151 (formerly EAL 4757).
 Type locality: 11.1 mi (17.0 km) SW Zaragoza, at Rancho La
 Encantada, Nuevo León, México.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to Drs. Harold A. Dundee and
 Douglas A. Rossman for their expertise in editing the rough
 draft of this paper.

Literature Cited

- Axtell, R. W. 1961. *Cnemidophorus inornatus*, the valid name for the little striped whiptail lizard, with the description of an annectant subspecies. *Copeia* 1961:148-158.
- Burger, W. L. 1950. New, revived, and reallocated names for North American whiptailed lizards, genus *Cnemidophorus*. *Nat. Hist. Miscellanea* (65):1-9.
- Cochran, D. M. 1961. Type specimens of reptiles and amphibians in the U.S. National Museum. *Bull. U. S. Natl. Mus.* (220):xv-291.
- Conant, R. 1968. Zoological exploration in Mexico—The route of Lieut. D. N. Couch in 1853. *Amer. Mus. Novit.* (2350):1-14.
- Cope, E. D. 1900. The crocodilians, lizards, and snakes of North America. *Ann. Rept. U. S. Natl. Mus.* 1898:153-1294.
- Liner, E. A. (In press). *Rhadinaea montana* Smith. *Cat. Amer. Amphib. Rept.*
- Smith, H. M., and E. H. Taylor. 1950. Type localities of Mexican reptiles and amphibians. *Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull.* 33:313-380.

HerPET-POURRI

by Ellin Beltz

Dear readers: This month's column is a roundup from my E-mail box from June through August 20. The notes and letters are in the order received and neither this columnist nor the CHS is responsible for the opinions or ideas expressed by the writers thereof. Regular column format of reader-contributed clippings will return next month. Please continue to send clippings with date/publication slug and your name to: Ellin Beltz, 1647 N. Clybourn Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-5507. E-mail to <uebeltz@uxa.ecn.bgu.edu>.

- We have created a page off our homepage for the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, which includes information on sea turtle fibropapilloma and a number of other reptile diseases which are focuses of research here. Also included is information on various training programs within wildlife and zoological medicine <www.vetmed.ufl.edu>. When you enter our homepage you will notice "Zoological and Wildlife Medicine" near the top of the page. Click this and you will then be linked to a series of titles within this category. Scroll down to sea turtle fibropapilloma and open it. Within this document are hyperlinked images, including gross, light microscopic, and electron microscopic images. After you view it, feel free to send any comments/suggestions to me. It will be continually updated. From: Elliott Jacobson <ERJ@VETMED1.VETMED.UFL.EDU>, Professor, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, P.O. Box 100126, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32610.

- Through the courtesy of the California Turtle and Tortoise Club, I received a story from the *Las Vegas Review* detailing the extraordinary theft of 134 hatchling, endangered species desert tortoises back in March. Details have been posted to our Anti-Smuggling Website <<http://www.xmission.com/~gastown/herpmed/ihpl.htm>>. Any news stories or information on the theft or illegal trade of rare and endangered/ listed herp species can be sent to the undersigned for distribution on this website. Trade in non-listed species which may foreshadow a population decline or population extinction will be the subject of an associated website termed "Herp-Watch" coming soon. From: Steve Grenard <grenard@herpmed.com>

- In our continuing effort to make the world hot for smugglers of contraband and often stolen reptiles and amphibians we now have a number of photos of the stolen Malagasy *yniphora* tortoises as links from our Anti-Smuggling website. You can link to them from: <<http://www.xmission.com/~gastown/herpmed/ihpl.htm>>. Courtesy of Bill Love from Blue Chameleon (who runs some great wildlife/ecology photo/study tours to places such as Madagascar by the way. E-mail: <blove@cyberstreet.com>. We also have some pix of the compound from which the animals were stolen including the notorious chain-link fence discussed a while ago. This fence is quite high from what we can see of it and will be posting the famous fence pictures and other shots of the locale sometime next week after we can them back from the scanner service.

From: Steve Grenard <grenard@herpmed.com>.

- "... On 14 May 1996 at ca. 2:00 P.M. a Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempi*) came ashore and nested on the beach of the town of Ponce Inlet, Volusia Co., FL. The turtle bore NO evidence of tags (living or metal) and there were NO tag scars. Due to eminent danger of tidal inundation the eggs were relocated to a safer site. Clutch size was 108, SLCL=63.8 cm, SLCW=61.5 cm. The relocation site is being monitored daily. On 1 June 1996 at ca. 8:00 A.M. the same turtle came ashore and nested in the town of New Smyrna Beach, about 7 km south of the first site. The exact location of the clutch was determined and the eggs left in situ. The site is being monitored regularly. Numerous photographs were taken of this turtle and when compared to photos of the previous animal, there is no doubt that the same turtle was responsible for both nests. . . . A few cosmetic flaws (neck-skin pigmentation and small pits in the carapace) . . . allow positive identification as the same turtle in both instances. The two groups which monitor sea turtle nesting activity in the vicinity of the nests (Volusia Turtle Patrol and Volusia Sea Turtle Society) do not have tagging programs and therefore the turtle was not tagged during either nesting emergence. I am currently in the process of obtaining tags and permission from the State to tag this turtle should we again encounter her. This is not the first documented instance of *L. kempi* nesting in Florida. Two previous nesting events have been observed, both on the west coast. The first was in 1989 at Madeira Beach (see Meylan et al. 1990. Herp Review:21) and the second occurred in 1994 on Clearwater Beach (see Velador Spring/Summer 1994). From: Steve Johnson <Caretta@aol.com>.

- "... As you may know, *Anolis equestris*, originally a Cuban species, is now well-established in Florida. I understand that it was deliberately introduced there, somewhere in the 50s. Recently, I have encountered a number (several dozens, all males except two, of animals from this population, and I noted that (1) almost all of the animals had a pair of paramedian, ill-defined (compared to supralabial bar and axillary stripe) light blotches halfway between the forelimb insertion and the dorsal crest; (2) about 50% of the animals had a deformed tail, in the sense that a sinusoidal crooks appeared along the length of it (somewhat like the ritual Indonesian dagger, the *keris*). . . . Since herpetology is not my professional field (I am a neurobiologist with a profound interest in herpetology, however), I am not in an easy position to do an elaborate search on old literature. . . . Therefore: does anyone of you know anything about the introduction of *A. equestris* in Florida? What was the rationale for doing so? Was it a single introduction, or did it happen repeatedly? How many animals were set free? What is the current geographical range of the animal (in the USA)? Does anyone know about the ins and outs of the described phenomena? Or, for that matter, can anyone point me in the right direction (papers, experts' e-mail boxes)? Furthermore, I have learnt that, a subspecies not covered by the article mentioned above, has been described (*A. e. potior*). Since the paper in which this

occurred is in Spanish (by Garrido, again), I have—as yet—not asked our library to track it for me. Does anyone of you know what it looks like, where it occurs, and so on? Thanks in advance, Zainal L. Haberham, Dept. of Lab. Anim. Sci., Veterinary Faculty, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. From: <z.l.haberham@pobox.ruu.nl>.

- Registration Forms and Call for Papers are just being sent out for the 1st Annual Meeting of the Working Group on Amphibian and Reptile Conservation in Canada and the 6th Annual Meeting of the IUCN/SSC Task Force on Declining Amphibian Populations in Canada (DAPCAN). These meetings will be held at the University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, from October 5-7, 1996. If you are not already on our mailing list and would like to receive the Call for Papers and Registration Forms please contact Stan Orchard, National Co-ordinator, 1745 Bank Street, Victoria, British Columbia, CANADA, V8R 4V7. Telephone/Fax: (604) 595-7556. E-mail: sorchard@islandnet.com. Messages can also be left at the Royal British Columbia Museum at (604) 387-3649. From: Stan Orchard <sorchard@islandnet.com>.

- July 8, 1996 “MUNICH, Germany (Reuter) – Customs officials in Munich said Monday they had detained a man suspected of smuggling 3,000 rare and protected tortoises from Serbia for an estimated \$327,000 over the past five years. The 32-year-old suspect, an out of work German auto paint sprayer, was detained last week in the city of Augsburg with 328 tortoises in his luggage, ‘stacked up like plates,’ a customs spokesman said. The man had admitted selling around 3,000 of the tortoises since 1991 after having either caught them or bought them cheaply in Serbia. If convicted, he could face up to five years in jail.” From: <ASalzberg@aol.com>.

- The first of three leatherback nests laid on Georgia beaches this season emerged over the weekend. A total of 21 out of 92 eggs hatched on Sea Island, a renourished beach. The remaining two nests are on Sapelo and St. Simons Islands. The last leatherback nests found in Georgia were on Blackbeard and Cumberland Islands in the early 1980s. From: Brad Winn <cbw@DNRCD.DNR.STATE.GA.US>.

- *Living with Rattlesnakes*: The Tucson Herpetological Society has published a very informative brochure and is making it available to interested organizations/people. The brochure gives a little natural history of the “pit vipers” and touches on how they are born and able to deal with the world from day one. It also mentions “Rattlesnakes and Your Home,” common sense precautions that everyone should observe. Here they mention the relationship between rodents and rattlers. After a few paragraphs on “Deterrents” the brochure deals with Snake Encounters and then guidelines should you have a rattlesnake bite. The final article mentions Conservation and Protection and follows up with references by experts in the field. One copy will be furnished FREE with a stamped self addressed envelopes. Quantity pricing will be included with FREE BROCHURE. Mail to: Advance, 8987 E. Tanque Verde Road, #339, Tucson, AZ 85749. From: Ted Raszka <advance@azstarnet.com> [Mine arrived in a week – EB]

- “In the ‘Turnabout is Fair Play’ category: Recently, an

illegal gill-netter was observed and apprehended in waters around Petit Bois Island, MS. The island, a part of Gulf Islands National Seashore, is off limits to all commercial fishing activities (the boundary extends 1 mile offshore). Whereas this is not overly unusual in itself, the circumstances are quite amusing. The fisherman would have very likely escaped detection were it not for a sea turtle nest. A park biologist was conducting an aerial search for turtle crawls when one was spotted on the island. Circling back for verification, the biologist observed the gill net and was able to convey the information to a patrol ranger. The violator was finally apprehended near the mainland after a chase involving both the National Park Service and the Coast Guard (a scanner was used in an effort to avoid the pursuers). Turns out he was also fishing out of season for Mississippi waters. Had it not been for the turtle nest, this one would surely have gotten away! Riley Hoggard, Gulf Islands National Seashore.” Forward from: <ASalzberg@aol.com>.

- In an effort to educate the general public and to try to convey the large size that the green iguana will attain, and the large enclosure it requires, the following experiment is proposed: All those that care for the well-being of the green iguana in captivity and wish to assist in this educational effort . . . simply refer to the common green iguana (*Iguana iguana*) as: The GIANT GREEN IGUANA. If we all use the term Giant Green Iguana, it will eventually be the preferred common name and first-time reptile buyers might think twice about the acquisition or might even prepare large accommodations for their new lizard. . . . They might even read about their new pet to see how large it gets and pick up other valuable insights. For those of you that belong to herp clubs or societies, please pass this along and ask your group to adopt it as well. For those that write articles or books, please refer to this species as the Giant Green Iguana in print. And for those that discuss iguanas on line . . . please continue this experiment every time you mention them! Many thanks for your support and cooperation! Mark Miller, President, Philadelphia Herpetological Society, PO Box 52261, Philadelphia. PA 19115 USA. From: <MMiller@tjuvm.tju.edu>.

- “[A] . . . Carlsbad woman was accused of violating a New Mexico law that says it is illegal to kill, sell or ship from the state a horned toad. [She] pleaded no contest Wednesday before Eddy County Magistrate Bill Sadler, who deferred sentencing for 15 days on condition she obey all laws. A fine up to \$500 and a sentence up to six months in jail can be issued for the offense. Sadler said it was the first time he had seen someone charged with unlawful shipping of a horned toad.” Albuquerque [NM] Journal, 2 August 1996. From: James N. Stuart <stuartjn@unm.edu>.

- ProjWITH wrote: > My house is infested with *Hemidactylus turcicus*. Eggs are being laid in attic and possibly furniture. What can I do to control this problem? I can find no local assistance on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. < Reply: My first instinct would be to congratulate you, I wish something like that happened to me. They’re excellent little pest controllers, and do no harm by themselves. I take it your house has a large number of hiding places (narrow spaces, large wall

cracks etc.). Try plugging these, this would make your house a less attractive habitat for them. In addition, supply a number of removable artificial hiding places, and collect the animals that have accepted them during day time, and put them outside. This is probably not a good idea, but I've seen tokay geckos hunt them (that is, the Indonesian variety, *H. frenatus*) in Indonesia. However, this would render you with a huge, loudly barking gecko in your house, probably eating only incidentally a *Hemidactylus*. From: Zainal L. Haberham <z.l.haberham@pobox.ruu.nl>.

- August 9, 1996 "VIENNA, Austria (Reuter) – Austrian efforts to rescue 20,000 Yugoslav frogs from death in Italian gourmet restaurants failed Friday after zoologists determined the animals would damage the local ecosystem if allowed to stay. 'They are just beautiful, green animals. I'm so sad we can't help them,' Harald Schwammer, a zoologist at Vienna's Schoenbrunn zoo, told Reuters. 'It's awful they'll now be eaten.' The frogs arrived from Yugoslavia Thursday and are due to continue their voyage to the northern Italian city of Milan on Friday evening, a spokesman for Austrian Airlines said. 'We considered setting them free, but after the experts' assessment it is impossible,' he said. Austrian Airlines said it had a policy of not transporting animals, but airport personnel had only realized the shipment contained live frogs after it arrived for transit in Vienna. 'There are 4,400 lbs. of frogs. When they arrived they were shut in containers, stuck in bags with airholes,' the Austrian Airlines spokesman said. 'We've now put them into boxes that are more appropriate for living creatures.' Schwammer said the frogs, which are three to six inches long, could not be set free because their genetic material would endanger the local frog population. He said they could also probably not adapt to Austrian weather. . . . 'The argument . . . that they cannot live together with our animals should be discounted considering the fate the frogs face in Italian cooking pots,' the [Green] party's environment spokeswoman . . . said. [The biologist approved the airline's care of the frogs.] 'The little fellows are in good condition. They have received excellent care at Vienna airport, where fire-fighters spray them with water to keep them cool.'" From: <Anbaskin@aol.com>.

- My first thought was to consider these animals for the pet/hobbyist trade, but after remembering the two-year-long slaughter of the Russian Tortoises at the hands of the Dutch Government, maybe a sure, quick death is a better option. I guess either way, the frogs 0, humans 1. From: <sfrantz@LACA.OHIO.GOV>.

- "... the Mediterranean gecko (*Hemidactylus turcicus*), [is] very common in Florida and apparently in Alabama. I have found two where I work in Prattville, Alabama, in the past several weeks. A zoologist I know said they are probably arriving here by people who are bringing potted plants into Alabama from Florida. They are insectivorous and nocturnal. Probably very good to have around. I'm not sure how they arrived in Florida but the state is a haven for all kinds of introduced species. From: Richard Dowling <YZMJ60A@prodigy.com>.

- Evidently, *Hemidactylus turcicus* is very common all along

the Gulf Coast as well as the SW US. Five or six years ago I helped some students from Texas A&M collect these geckos from the shipyards on Galveston Bay where they were very abundant. They have also established populations away from the coast at many locations across the south. They seem to be particularly abundant on college campuses. I guess this is because that is where they are most likely to have been originally released and because campuses provide excellent habitat. I am aware of two graduate theses on *H. t. turcicus* that used the Stephen F. Austin campus in Nacogdoches, TX as their study site. This is about 150 miles from the coast (I think). A couple of questions come to mind: I'm wondering how far north this species can survive. I believe there is a population of in Oklahoma City and maybe Tulsa (??). Is anyone aware of a more northern population? How is this species affecting native species? Mike Duran, Mississippi Natural Heritage Program, CSTS-DPW-E; Bldg 6678; Camp Shelby, MS 39407-5500. From: <cmduran@whale.st.usm.edu>

- Orlando Sentinel August 17, 1996. "A curious U.S. Customs Service inspector thought something was wrong Tuesday when he reached inside a man's suitcase and felt something move. An X-ray and further investigation showed he was right: inside were 61 endangered Madagascan tree snakes and four rare spider tortoises worth \$100,000 or more. Customs agents arrested Simon David Harris, 25, of Blairgowrie, South Africa, who led investigators to another tourist, Wolfgang Kloe of Rauenberg, Germany. Kloe, 33, was arrested Thursday by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at a Bushnell restaurant. Investigators say he admitted in a tape-recorded phone call with Harris that he intended to sell the reptiles to an unidentified party. At a bail hearing Friday before U.S. Magistrate James Glazebrook in Orlando, Justice Department prosecutor Robert Anderson said the investigation was continuing. "There is an indication here there are others involved," said Anderson, a specialist on wildlife and marine resources. . . . Kloe was visiting Florida with his wife and children. . . . He had planned to attend the National Reptile Breeders Expo, billed as the "largest reptile show in the world," . . . at the Radisson Twin Towers Hotel in Orlando. Hotel convention spokeswoman Melissa Humin calls the event 50,000 square feet of "everything that crawls and creeps." Scott Audette, secretary for the Central Florida Herpetological Society, which is sponsoring the show, said it is a convention for scientists, zoologists and breeders to show and sell reptiles raised in the United States. He said legitimate breeders and hobbyists do not condone black-market smuggling. "Our slogan is 'Conservation is through captive propagation,'" Audette said. "We can breed these animals instead of raping nature." Don Boyer, associate reptile curator at the San Diego Zoo, said the turtles and snakes seized in Orlando are protected species that are illegal to export from Madagascar, an island country at the southern tip of Africa. Tree boas, he said, grow up to 4-feet long and are worth \$700 to \$1,200. He said the tortoises, which are 6 inches long and extremely rare, are priceless and could sell for thousands of dollars. "If you put aside your fears about snakes . . . they have roles in the ecosystem," Boyer said. "One of their [boas'] roles . . . is control of rodents." From: <ASalzberg@aol.com>.

Herpetology 1996

In this column the editorial staff presents short abstracts of herpetological articles we have found of interest. This is not an attempt to summarize all of the research papers being published; it is an attempt to increase the reader's awareness of what herpetologists have been doing and publishing. The editors assume full responsibility for any errors or misleading statements.

TIMBER RATTLESNAKE MATING SEASON

W. S. Brown [1995, Herpetological Natural History 3(2):127-133] found in a 12-year study of the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) that the mating season, based on males being found together with vitellogenic females, occurs over a period of 72 days, from 15 July to 25 September. Presumptive and actual mating pairs ($n = 12$) were observed during the midsummer and late summer periods centered on a mean date of 23 August ($SD = 24$ days). Oocyte development in yolking females varied in its detectability by palpation in late summer; the onset of sexual attractiveness and mating was variable but generally preceded detectable follicular yolking. Skin-shedding in females was associated with their sexual attractiveness. Locating of females by multiple males was observed. Among mating systems in snakes, *C. horridus* likely belongs in a category termed prolonged mate-searching polygyny, and one in which the operational sex ratio is skewed toward males in each annual round of matings. The midsummer shedding cycle and the late summer follicular yolking cycle are suggested to be primary causal factors determining the mating season in *C. horridus*, and probably in other species of pitvipers.

ARTIFICIAL SHELTERS FOR SURVEYING SNAKES

J. R. Parmelee and H. S. Fitch [1995, Herpetological Natural History 3(2):187-191] note that reptiles and amphibians frequently take shelter beneath cover objects, and that adding artificial cover objects to the environment, especially where natural cover is scarce, can provide a useful method for determining species composition and abundance. In this study the authors examine three factors that may influence the effectiveness of artificial cover objects: material (wood vs. metal); age (seven years vs. new); and surface preparation (none vs. vegetation removed). The entire series of shelters used in the study consisted of 26 triads, each triad consisting of a pair of old shelters in place for seven years, a pair of new shelters on unprepared substrate, and another pair of new shelters on prepared substrate. Each of the 78 pairs consisted of a plywood board, $1.2 \times .6$ m, and a corrugated metal strip of the same dimensions. Shelters were checked approximately twice per week from 13 April 1994 until 24 October 1994. One hundred five snakes of eight species were captured beneath the shelters during the course of the study. There was no overall significant difference between the six shelter types (two-way likelihood ratio $\chi^2 = 2.20$, $p > 0.05$). Old and new shelters harbored similar numbers of snakes (a result that surprised the authors). There was no significant difference in snake encounters between shelter materials ($G = 2.15$, $p > 0.05$) although metal shelters yielded 14.2% more records than wood shelters (60 metal, 45 wood). The results suggest that preparing the substrate (by rototilling and raking) is unnecessary and even undesirable for snake-censusing purposes.

SPUR-THIGHED TORTOISES IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO

J. R. Bayley and A. C. Highfield [1996, Chelonian Cons. and Biol. 2(1):36-42] report that the dominant natural habitat of the spur-thighed tortoise, *Testudo graeca graeca*, in the Souss Valley in southern Morocco is argan (*Argania spinosa*) forest. This unique ecosystem is undergoing considerable modification as a result of agricultural intensification, overgrazing, deforestation, hydrological change, and the introduction of non-endemic species. Recent changes in the pattern of distribution of *T. g. graeca* are recognized. Tortoises are now rarely encountered in natural forest areas where high density populations were reported previously; instead, the highest density populations are now found in irrigated, intensively farmed areas. The interrelationships of *T. g. graeca* with these agricultural systems, together with the geology, climate, soils, and vegetation of the Souss Valley are discussed. Population structure is described, and observations on the annual activity cycle are reported. The implications of dietary modifications imposed by the ecological changes noted are discussed.

SAP FEEDING BY AUSTRALIAN GECKOS

P. J. Couper et al. [1995, Memoirs of the Queensland Museum 38(2):396] note that although Australian geckos are generally opportunistic arthropod feeders, several species will also feed on plant nectar and sap. *Christinus guentheri* and *Rhacodactylus lindneri* lick nectar from blossoms; *Gehyra australis* licks decaying, or pulpy fruit; and *Christinus marmoratus*, *Heteronotia binoei* and *Lepidodactylus lugubris* will feed in captivity on sugar-based substances. Only two records of geckos feeding on sap were previously known: *Gehyra variegata* feeds on the sap of small *Acacia* shrubs in Western Australia, and *Strophrurus spinigerus* was seen by one of the authors feeding on *Acacia* sap near Perth, Western Australia. On 21 March 1995, in open forest 15 km south of Yuleba, Queensland, a specimen of *Gehyra dubia* was observed at approximately 1930 h head-down, apparently licking sap from the trunk of a small tree, *Acacia l. leiocalyx*. Small black ants were present, so it was difficult to determine whether the gecko was feeding on these or the *Acacia* sap. Later in the evening, 2040 h, 1 km south of the initial observation site, several specimens of *G. dubia* (2-3 per tree) were seen near the bases of trunks of small *Acacia* trees. Six specimens were feeding on sap; two were observed for 18 minutes. One of the authors recently observed sap-feeding by *Gehyra* cf. *baliola* and *Rhacodactylus australis*. A specimen of the former was photographed feeding on the sap of an *Acacia* sp. tree, 500 m from the tip of Cape York Peninsula (10°41'S, 142°33'E). The *R. australis* was seen feeding on the sap of an unidentified rainforest tree in the Lockerbie Scrub (10°47'S, 142°28'E).

BLACK KITES EAT CANE TOADS

D. Mitchell et al. [1995, *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 38(2):512] report predation upon cane toads (*Bufo marinus*) by nesting black kites (*Milvus migrans*) in July 1995. During surveys of the Ross River Dam area, one author observed several black kite nests with toad remains on the ground below them. Detailed observations were made on a single black kite nest in a paperbark tree (*Melaleuca nervosa*) beside a farm dam approximately 24 km southwest of Townsville, northeast Queensland. Over 20 toad remains were observed lying on the ground below the nest. Furthermore, there were toad remains hanging from branches beside the nest, suggesting that the black kites had fed portions of cane toad to the young in the nest. Close inspection of the toads revealed that they had had portions of their internal organs removed. The toads appeared to have been opened from the ventral surface, presumably allowing the kites to avoid the toxic glands on the dorsal surface. One of the authors has observed black kites hovering around the edge of dams presumably looking for prey, and as cane toads are known to hide in hoofprints near the water during the day the authors suspect that they were actively searching for them. The authors suggest that the black kite has adapted its behavior to exploit this introduced amphibian despite its toxicity. First, it has learned to find and capture cane toads in their diurnal refuges. Second, it has learned to eat the internal organs of the cane toad, avoiding the toxins concentrated on the dorsal surface. Black kites are an abundant predator in the Townsville region that could influence cane toad populations. The authors hypothesize that this predator, along with other native animals which are adapting their behavior to eat cane toads, will reduce toad populations and hence the impact of this introduced amphibian on the Australian environment.

REPRODUCTION, OVIPOSITION SITE SELECTION AND TADPOLE OOPHAGY IN A RHACOPHORID FROG

Y.-C. Kam, Z.-S. Chuang and C.-F. Yen [1996, *J. Herpetology* 30(1):52-59] studied reproductive and nesting ecology of *Chirixalus eiffingeri* in two bamboo tree habitats in the Chitou area, Taiwan. Water-filled cups in cut bamboo were visited weekly between 0900 and 1700. Oviposition site characteristics, clutch size, and SVL of male frogs, if present, were recorded. Between 21 February and 5 August 1994, 205 egg clutches were deposited; 39% of the bamboo cups were used as deposition sites, and one-third of used cups were reused at least once. Complete mortality occurred in 21.5% of the clutches. Fungal infections, flooding, dehydration and predation were sources of mortality. Frogs chose higher bamboo trunks with less vegetative cover and deeper cups with more water for nesting, suggesting that water availability was the most important determinant of oviposition site selection. Egg clutches laid in short bamboo trunks with large hole diameters were more likely to produce tadpoles. In a laboratory experiment, tadpoles that were fed eggs increased in mass throughout the study, whereas unfed tadpoles did not grow at all. Tadpoles consumed an average of 87 eggs from hatching to metamorphosis, suggesting a high cost for maternal brood care.

MAMBA DIETS

W. R. Branch et al. [1995, *Herpetological Natural History* 3(2):171-178] note that a previous study postulated that juvenile and adult green mambas rely on different foods and use different predatory techniques. The authors reviewed feeding records for both black mambas, *Dendroaspis polylepis*, and green mambas, *D. angusticeps*, to determine whether there is indeed evidence for an ontogenetic shift in diet, and whether interspecific dietary differences occur between these two species. The study was limited to the relatively few records of specific prey items. With one exception, all black mamba dietary records involved warm-blooded prey, with a preponderance of mammals (22 of 27 records, 81.48%). With the exception of two cases of predation on lizards, the records indicate that green mambas also feed on warm-blooded prey (17 of 19 dietary records, 89.5%), taking small birds and rodents almost equally. The authors caution that several statements from the general literature as to the prey taken by these species seem to be based on supposition and inference, and are not substantiated by detailed feeding records. The authors conclude that both the mamba species studied feed almost exclusively on warm-blooded prey, with the green mamba taking a higher proportion of birds. Due to the paucity of feeding records for juvenile mambas, they were unable to confirm or deny the hypothesis of an ontogenetic shift in diet for either species.

THE PANCAKE TORTOISE IN TANZANIA

D. Moll and M. W. Klemens [1996, *Chelonian Cons. and Biol.* 2(1):26-35] report that the pancake tortoise, *Malacochersus tornieri*, is an inhabitant of rocky outcrops and kopjes located below 1800 m, primarily in the Somalia-Masai floristic region of Tanzania and Kenya. Crevice-rich rock outcrops with well-vegetated substrates separated by intervals of Masai steppe or *Brachystegia* woodland are favored. The species is very specialized in its microhabitat requirements, particularly with regard to the internal dimensions and configuration of crevices in which individuals, pairs (many of which are composed of adult males and females), and occasionally larger assemblages reside. Suitable crevices that provide protection from predators, overheating, and desiccation are limited in number and therefore may regulate population size. Several types of grass species, leafy vegetation, and aloes that grow in or near these outcrops were identified as food items. Tortoises were observed foraging and moving outside of crevices in November and February, although observations by others and indirect evidence indicate that outside activity also occurs at other times of the year. Limited data suggest that males may be more wide-ranging than females. Five females collected in June were determined to be gravid, but the authors found no evidence of reproduction at other seasons. Considerable variation in ontogenetic and adult color patterns and meristic scute characteristics was observed. Most pancake tortoises display distinct growth zones, probably due to growth episodes in wet periods and growth cessation during dry periods. The data suggest that females are sexually mature at approximately 130 mm carapace length, and males at 90-100 mm carapace length. Adult males are on average smaller than females.

The Tympanum

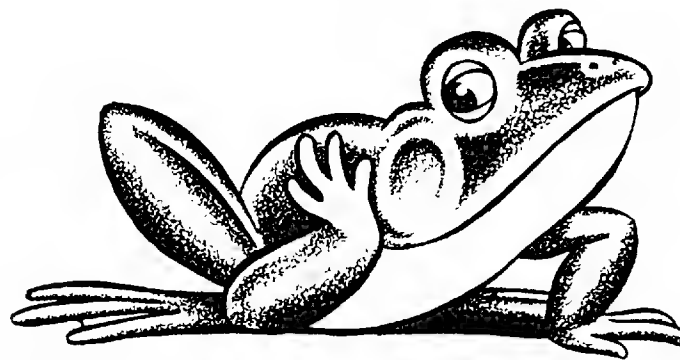
Dear CHS members:

My original "box turtle" letter (July 1996) was intended to clarify some misconceptions about the Louisiana box turtle harvest and the Reptile and Amphibian Task Force, and to solicit data on box turtles. That letter appears to have missed the mark judging from the negative direction of several of the ensuing editorials. Rather than perpetuate a cycle of rebuttals, I have sent letters to several of the respondents addressing individual points they had made. However, I wish to here extend my apologies to Mr. Salzberg for connecting his action alerts with misinformation. The misinformation to which I referred is misstatements about the Task Force and Louisiana reptile dealers, and statements about nationwide box turtle declines. Such statements have been perpetuated by a number of sources, but not by Mr. Salzberg.

A goal of the Louisiana box turtle study is to compare population demographics between harvested and protected sites. To date I have gathered data on demography of harvested box turtles, reproductive potential and age at sexual maturity of Gulf Coast box turtles, and preliminary demographic data for one population. These data are contained in progress reports issued to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and are available from me on request. Additional information on Louisiana box turtles and their harvest is available in the *Box Turtle Research & Conservation Newsletter* No. 4. It is clear from recent editorials in the CHS *Bulletin* and from letters I have received that the export of box turtles is an issue that has polarized biologists, turtle hobbyists and reptile dealers. A constructive resolution of this issue will require extensive collection of novel data, and I am again soliciting original information on box turtle population demographics from fellow CHS members. I would appreciate hearing from anyone with observations on specific box turtle populations, and information on juvenile mortality or any other aspect of box turtle natural history. **Jeff Boundy, Fur & Refuge Division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898. Phone: (504) 765-2815; FAX: (504) 765-2818.**

This letter is in response to the abridged letter of Phil Averbuck which was printed in the Tympanum section of the April 1996 *Bulletin*.

Your commentary accompanying the letter mentions that, "it is unfortunate but true that the trend in recent years has been toward restrictive local and state laws dealing with the ownership of reptiles (usually included under the rubric of 'exotic' or 'dangerous' animals). And even more unfortunately, in virtually all cases these laws are being promulgated by persons who haven't the slightest clue as to what herpetoculture as a hobby is all about."



Speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors of the New England Herpetological Society, it is especially unfortunate that Mr. Averbuck's letter and his posts to various herp listservs are being used as the criterion for judging the herpetocultural awareness of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

For the record, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife sought the advice of resident herpetologists and herpetoculturists through the state herpetological society PRIOR to enacting legislation concerning reptiles and amphibians both in 1976 (when reptiles and amphibians were first considered for legal status as non-game animals) and in 1993 (when the Division decided that changes to the 1976 legislation were in order).

In 1976, the Massachusetts Herpetological Society was involved; in 1993, the New England Herpetological Society (same society but new name) was involved. In fact, the Division agreed to consider changes to the law in 1993 following discussions with certain members of the New England Herpetological Society.

As a result of the 1993 changes (which included all of the recommendations by the New England Herpetological Society), Massachusetts residents may now keep without restriction many more species of exotic herps than before, i.e., the opportunity for herpetoculture within the state has improved. Additionally, Dr. Tom French has indicated a willingness to consider future changes to the list.

The current legislation, as written, is designed to inhibit the sale of wild-caught herps and to promote the sale of captive-bred herps, for which hobbyists may obtain permits if required.

Therefore, please be advised that not all Massachusetts herpetoculturists share Mr. Averbuck's perspective. There are those of us who are satisfied with the current state laws pertaining to reptiles and amphibians and are keeping, and propagating, in our homes a fairly diverse herpetofauna, including some species which require permits. Though Mr. Averbuck may have difficulties with the permit system, I personally know a sixteen-year-old up-and-coming herpetologist who has managed somehow to obtain a permit for a restricted species.

We look forward to a continued amicable working relationship with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Sincerely, **Joe Martinez, President, New England Herpetological Society, P.O. Box 1082, Boston MA 02103.**

Advertisements

American Federation of Herpetoculturists: A nonprofit national membership organization of herpetoculturists, veterinarians, academicians and zoo personnel involved in the captive husbandry and propagation of amphibians and reptiles. Membership includes highly acclaimed magazine, *The Vivarium*, dedicated to dissemination of information on herpetocultural accomplishments, herp medicine, breeding and maintenance, field studies and adventures, enclosure design and much more. AFH membership is \$26. Send information requests to: AFH-News, P.O. Box 300067, Escondido CA 92030-0067.

Attention: A database (studbook) for Egyptian tortoises (*Testudo kleinmanni*) is available to persons who currently own Egyptian tortoises and are interested in long-term captive breeding of the species. The purpose of this studbook is to keep a large diverse gene pool of captive tortoises to avoid long-term problems associated with inbreeding. There is no charge for this service. Interested persons should call Dan at (303) 347-0394 (evenings only please) or fax (303) 347-1172 (24-hour). [CO]

For sale: rats and mice—pinkies, fuzzies and adults. Quantity discounts. Please send a SASE for pricelist or call Bill Brant, *THE GOURMET RODENT*, 6115 SW 137th Avenue, Archer FL 32618, (904) 495-9024.

For sale: murine-pathogen-free rats and mice available in all sizes, live or frozen: pinkies, fuzzies, crawlers, small, medium and large. Frozen crawler mice in lots of 2000, \$.17 each. Also available, full grown hairless mice. FOB shipping point. Master Card accepted. Call (518) 537-2000 between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. or write SAS Corporation, 273 Hover Avenue, Germantown NY 12526 for prices and additional information.

For sale: high quality feeder mice. Shipped UPS Next Day Air. All mice are properly processed to insure a quality product. Fourth year of production and supply of frozen feeder mice. Prices: pinks, \$25/100; fuzzies, \$30/100; weanlings, \$35/100. Also available are 4 oz.+ rats, \$100/100. Quantity discounts available. The Mouse Factory, P.O. Box 85, Alpine TX 79831, (915) 837-7100, Ray Queen.

For sale: from Bayou Rodents, excellent quality feeder mice and rats. Every size available. Pinks starting at \$20/100. Orders are shipped by overnight service Monday thru Thursday. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover. For more info, contact Rhonda or Peggy, (800) 722-6102.

For sale: In stock, Flex-watt and Ultra-therm heating products. **Frozen rodents** always available. Mice: pinks–crawlers, 3/\$1; weanlings, 40¢; subadult, 50¢; adults, 65¢; large adults, 75¢. Rats: small, 85¢–\$1; medium, \$1.25–2.00; large, \$2.25–2.75; jumbo, 3/\$10. Call on quantity discounts [note: discount on orders picked up at CHS meetings]. Live rodents available at higher prices. **Available now:** newsletter/catalog—many unique/hard-to-find herp husbandry items. Send business-size SASE for catalog, or call. Scott J. Michaels, D.V.M, Serpent City, P.O. Box 657, Island Lake IL 60042, (815) 363-0290.

For Sale: **Reptile D-lights.** Our 8% is the first and only fluorescent light bulb that duplicates the UV-B output of the sun while having an excellent color rendition (CRI 91). Let your reptile make *exactly* the right amount of vitamin D. Stop under- or overdosing with all those powders. A must-have for iguanas, uromastix, bearded dragons and all diurnal basking lizards. Get yours now! Available in 18", 24", 36", 48". \$34.95 each plus shipping. In California please add 7.75% sales tax. Dealer inquiries invited. Scott Solar (909) 627-3274; 9 – 9 Pacific Time or; Reptek@aol.com anytime. For Animal Use Only.

For sale: reptile cage disinfectant and deodorant. Kills many types of infectious disease detrimental to herps. \$3.91 for 2 oz (makes 1 gallon). Wholesale and quantity prices available. Make checks payable to Bengal Pets, Inc., 1088 Chapman Road, Jesup GA 31545, (912) 530-6384.

For sale: **Want to sell your reptiles quickly?** Advertise in *Herp Classified* and reach anxious buyers and sellers throughout the United States. Wide readership, great results and inexpensive advertising. CHS membership save \$2. Special subscription rate \$12/year, \$20/2 yrs. Write for subscription or details to: Great Valley Serpentarium, 2379 Maggio Circle, Unit C, Lodi CA 95240, (209) 369-7737.

For sale: **Unique wooden tortoise carvings** of exotic African hardwood (primarily ebony) from Tanzania, East Africa. Carved by Tanzanian natives from a remote village of skilled artisans, specifically commissioned for this project. Live specimens of leopard, pancake, and Aldabra (an introduced species) tortoises were provided as models, resulting in the most detailed and realistic tortoise carvings ever seen. Various sizes are available, from yearling Aldabra tortoise (4-inch shell) to adult female leopard tortoise (17-inch straight-line carapace). Prices range from \$125 to \$2500. Color photos of any of the above carvings are available for \$2 each (refunded upon purchase). Call or fax for further details. Dave Fogel, The Herp House, 1750 Haines Road, Orwell OH 44076, (216) 685-4615 phone, (216) 685-4572 fax.

For sale: herp books. *Venomous Reptiles of Latin America* by Campbell and Lamar, \$50; *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia* by Cogger, \$75; *Encyclopedia of Turtles* by Pritchard, \$45; *Atlas of Reptiles and Amphibians for the Terrarium* by Obst, Richter and Jacob, \$90; Northern California Herp Conference Proceedings 1989, edited by Gowen, soft cover, \$25; *Living Amphibians of the World* by Cochran, out of print, \$35; *Kingsnakes and Milksnakes* by Markel, \$20. All hardcover, in new, mint condition with dust jackets where available. Chris, (616) 772-4627. [MI]

For sale: back issues of herpetological society newsletters—NOAH, Chicago, Southwestern, Minnesota, Arizona, several others, most starting back in 1991. Also *Vivarium*, *Reptile & Amphibian*, *Captive Breeding*, and *Reptiles* magazines. Bill Gillingham, Lodi CA, (209) 368-1304 (7–10 P.M. PST).

For sale: amphibian and reptile books. New, out of print and rare, over 4500 listed. My new 1996 96-page general natural history book list, which includes herpetological books as well, is also available. Send \$2 for postage, refundable with any purchase, to: Herpetological Search Service & Exchange, 117 E. Santa Barbara Road, Lindenhurst NY 11757.

For sale: Red-cheeked mud turtles (*Kinosternon scorpioides cruentatum*), all females, \$80 each; striped-neck turtle (*Ocadia sinensis*), \$20; Kwangtung River turtles (*Chinemys kwangtungensis*), \$150/pair; mata mata turtles (*Chelus fimbriatus*), adult pair \$1300, 6" subadults, \$350 each; four-eyed turtles (*Sacalia bealei*), \$30 each; female Pan's box turtle (*Cuora pani*), \$250 each; male Vietnamese wood turtle (*Geoemyda spengleri*), \$75; one pair of white-lipped mud turtles (*Kinosternon leucostomum*), \$50; female spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), not sold where protected, \$95; two male and two female European pond turtles (*Emys orbicularis*), \$125/pair; two male and two female black-knobbed map turtles (*Graptemys nigrinoda*), \$125/pair; one male and two female striped mud turtles (*Kinosternon baurii*), \$35/trio; one male and one female alligator snapping turtles, pinkish-red coloring, neat, not sold where protected, \$175/pair; one male and one female Malayan box turtles (*Cuora amboinensis*), \$45/pair; one male and one female New Guinea snapping turtles (*Elseya novaeguineae*), \$80/pair; subadult red-bellied shortneck turtles (*Emydura subglobosa*), \$60 each; one male and one female yellow-bellied sliders, not sold where protected, \$40/pair. Bill, (414) 628-0066. [WI]

For sale: **redfoot tortoises**, yearlings, \$175, 2-year-olds, \$200; c.b. year-old White's treefrogs, \$20 each. Egg incubator, \$45 or best offer. Marc, (708) 597-6172.

For sale: alligator snapping turtles [no-cost permit required for possession in IL], c.b. '95, 10 left, \$50, one c.b. '92, 4", and one 7", \$100 each, three 8–10", \$150 each. (816) 283-3639. [MO]

For sale: 30" Nile monitor lizard, 2½ years old, healthy and feisty; and 75-gallon tank ideal for larger reptiles. Best offer. Jim, (847) 566-6523.

For sale: Beautiful, captive-born babies. Bearded dragons, many unique color morphs, \$35–125; veiled chameleons, \$35–60; panther chameleons, \$60–75; leopard geckos, \$20–30; northern bluetongue skinks, call for price. Also expecting frilled lizard babies. Call for prices as well as other available herps. Conveniently located in Chicagoland area. We ship nationwide. **Midwest Reptile Farm**, (708) 539-7025.

Advertisements (cont'd)

For sale: baby leopard geckos, hi-yellow phase from gorgeous yellow/orange adults, zoo stock, babies are well started on top quality diets, come with detailed care sheet, excellent pets, only \$12; veiled chameleons, one month old, hardy and beautiful, expected early September, only \$30; orange Pueblan milksnake, c.b. '95, beautiful and growing fast, \$275. Kane heat mat, 22" × 28", brand new, never used, \$30. Rob Carmichael, (847) 615-4388, leave message on voice mail, or E-mail at <crzy4natur@aol.com>

For sale: captive-bred *Uromastix*. Moroccan, Mali and ornate. Not imports!! Born in USA. Randall Gray, (817) 613-1242, 7-9 P.M. CST only. [TX]

For sale: captive-bred Dumeril's monitors, *Varanus dumerilii*, \$330 (10% discount to herp society members, \$297). Unrelated bloodlines hatched January '96 and May '96. Mike, (770) 987-3933. [GA]

For sale: **Geckos** – 8-week-old leopard geckos, \$40; 1½-year-old female leopard gecko, \$60; breeding pair of African fat-tailed geckos, \$100. **Frogs** – breeding pair of White's treefrogs, approximately 2 years old. C. L. Geiger, (312) 362-0903 or E-mail <ckaser@teacher.depaul.edu>.

For sale: captive-bred snakes, lizards, tortoises and amphibians. Prospective births and hatchlings include: leopard geckos; carpet chameleons; Jackson's chameleons; African spurred tortoises; rat snakes; milksnakes; kingsnakes; western hognose snakes (permit needed in Illinois); northern and black pines; Colombian boas; Brazilian rainbow boas and Macklot's pythons. Send SASE for current list or call (903) 693-3379. R. L. Ball, Rt. 1 Box 170, Carthage TX 75633.

For sale: c.b. hatchling snakes: speckled kings, \$15; Honduran milks, \$85; Leonis kings (*thayeri*), \$90. Henry Cohen, 24 St. Johns Place, Buffalo NY 14201, (716) 881-6724.

For sale: 20 blotched kings (*Lampropeltis getula "goini"*), '96 hatch, wide variety of patterns, some with lots of orange, \$30-45 each; hatchling leopard geckos (*Eublepharis macularius*), \$25 each; young c.b. adult desert rosy boa (*Lichanura trivirgata gracia*), \$150; spring '96 hatch male *Chameleo calyptratus* (wound up with a "pair" of males), \$75. Some discount for local sales; may be able to get to Columbus, Indianapolis, NOAH swaps. Al Winstel, 2651 Cornwall Drive, Cincinnati OH 45231, (513) 729-2563.

For sale: one male and one female "proven breeder" c.h. '93 amelanistic Sonoran gophers (with free female "proven" '93 normal Sonoran), \$225/pair; two male and two female "Applegate" amelanistic San Diego gophers (pairs get free male hetero), \$200/pair; three male and four female c.h. '96, hetero for amelanism, bull snakes ("outbred"/hi-yellow), \$250/all; six male and six female c.h. '96, hetero for amelanism, Sonorans ("outbred"/nice!), \$300/all; 18 c.h. '96, hetero for amelanism, corns (rich "Okeetee"), \$200/all; 18 c.h. '96 normal corns (again, rich "Okeetee"), \$200/all. Steven E. Snow, (815) 624-8204. (Rockton IL)

For sale: eggs incubating now! Louisiana pines (rare in the wild and collections), Vandeventer stock, \$250 each; tangerine Hondurans (male Norm Damm strain), bright colors, \$150 each; Mexican black kings, patterned \$35, all black \$50; striped prairie kings, great for albino project, \$60 each; gray-banded kingsnakes (Blair's phase), \$150 each; Brazilian rainbow boas (Schuett stock), from iridescent orange adults, babies \$250 each; blonde trans-Pecos rat snakes, \$175 each; rare locale data corn snakes, \$40 each or \$75/pair. Chicago area pick-up or mail order. All hatchlings will be feeding and sexed properly before shipping. Call Brad at (630) 443-7286 or Mike at (630) 372-3936. Call Brad after 4 P.M. or leave message with Mike.

For sale: one male and two female northern pine snakes (*Pituophis m. melanoleucus*), c.b. '95, from reddish-phase adults, \$210/trio; northern pine snakes (*P. m. melanoleucus*), c.b. 8/10/96, from reddish-phase adults, \$45-50 each; Everglades rat snakes (*Elaphe obsoleta rossalleni*), c.b. '96, from Vandeventer and Lincoln stocks, \$35 each; California kingsnakes (*Lampropeltis getula californiae*), c.b. '96, black/white desert phase and Long Beach phase, \$35-50 each; one approx. 7' Burmese python (*Python molurus bivittatus*), c.b. '92, \$125 or best offer; one ornate Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus* ssp.), approx. 3', raised from hatchling, 3-year captive, has been wormed once, not a biter, but is skittish, \$50. Call (703) 385-8961. E-mail: <twilson3@gmu.edu>. No reasonable offer refused! [VA]

For sale: tricolors, albinos and a few secret projects. Send SASE for free price list. Robert Applegate, P.O. Box 338, Campo CA 91906, (619) 478-5123. Also, free husbandry consultation by phone, as a service to the herp community.

For sale: **Madagascan ground boas**, c.b. 11/95, call; **Surinam red-tail boas**, c.b. 8/96, "classic" beauties, \$300-350; Australian water pythons, c.b. 5/96, bright yellow bellies, \$175; Malaysian blood pythons, \$250 each; Argentine boa constrictors, \$250 each; locality gray-banded kingsnakes, \$125-160; Mexican milksnakes, \$50; Pueblan milksnakes, apricot & tricolor, \$65-100; Honduran milksnakes, anerythristic and possible heteros, \$150-800; albino Sonoran gophers, \$50; California kingsnakes, \$30-40. Call or fax Russ Walker, (409) 594-5554. [TX]

For sale: 1996 c.b. sand boas: *Eryx johnei*, \$250; *E. colubrinus loveridgei*, anerythristic, \$300, normal & potential hets, \$40. Long-term captives: *E. tataricus*, \$50; *E. miliaris*, \$50-75. Steve, (713) 261-6750. [TX]

For sale: *Acrantophis dumerili* (Dumeril's ground boas), \$300 each; *Lichanura trivirgata saslowi* (Bay of LA rosy boas), absolutely beautiful cinnamon and gray, \$100 each; *Eryx colubrinus loveridgei* (Kenyan sand boas), \$50 each. Giovanni, The Bean Farm, (206) 861-7964.

For sale: c.b. '96 Burmese python hatchlings, heterozygous for green (patternless), \$55, normal, \$45, quantity discounts available. Also, c.b. '96 leopard geckos, \$25; African fat-tail geckos, \$40. Ed Schoene, (607) 264-3441 or E-mail <74031.1674@compuserve.com>.

For sale: 4½-year-old female boa constrictor, \$100; 3½-year-old male albino Burmese python, \$150. Julia Howard, (312) 465-6002 evenings.

For sale: **Chondros, chondros, chondros!** 1996 is the year of the chondro! Eugene and Trooper are ready to send your own personal choice green tree python from the world's largest and most genetically diversified collection of green tree pythons, second to none. Do not miss this opportunity to experience the privilege of raising your own c.b.b. baby chondro. All babies will have shed two or more times, guaranteed feeding on their own. Data cards, genealogy charts and scientific reprints, all you need to ensure your many years of joy with the finest chondros in the world. Also available, 1- to 2-year-old breeder selects from numerous existing genetic colonies. Invest in the very best! Other pythons, boas and colubrids available. Call for more info, Ophiological Services, (352) 495-3075 or fax (352) 495-2952. [Archer FL]

For sale: captive-bred snakes. Blood pythons, Burmese pythons, Kenyan sand boas, black rat snakes, bull snakes. Will deliver in Chicago metro area or ship from O'Hare Airport. Joan Moore, (312) 528-4631.

For sale: Send SASE to CRC, P.O. Box 0731, Las Vegas NV 89125-0731 for brochures and list of species available. Limited bookings available for guided tours of herpetological collection sites in Nevada. Call/fax (702) 471-0240. Look for our ad on the Internet, <<http://www.accessnv.comm/crc>>.

Free to good home: healthy, semi-tame 3' *Varanus niloticus ornatus*. Call (312) 465-5378 – leave message.

Free to good home: one male and one female African sideneck turtles. Andy, (414) 551-9719. [Kenosha WI]

Pet-sitting service: Complete in-home pet and plant care, specializing in reptiles and other unique pets. Dogs and cats welcome with open arms, midday dog walking. Experienced and dependable service by devoted animal lovers, serving Chicago and suburbs, reasonable prices, fully insured and bonded. Ask about our habitat consultation and custom-made cages. Exotics & More, (312) 728-5457 or page us at (708) 750-3688.

Repto-rama: Live educational presentation of local herps and herps of the eastern U.S. for parties, scout groups, nature centers etc. Dave, (847) 679-1530.

Advertisements (cont'd)

Software: **TRACS™** record keeping and breeding software for IBM and compatibles. TRACS™ Professional, a full system, \$129; TRACS™ Lite, for the hobbyist, just \$39.95. Add \$5 s&h, \$10 outside U.S. Send for a working demo for \$10 (cost may be applied toward purchase). Or download demo free via Internet at <<http://www.herp.com/tracs/>>. Send check or money order to Leapin' Lizards, 23852 Pacific Coast Highway, #375, Malibu CA 90265.

Tours: Adventure tours to Madagascar! Join **Bill Love** seeing and photographing fauna and flora, heavily herp-biased, across the world's least known mini-continent. Much more fun than shoveling snow November–February. Contact him at: BLUE CHAMELEON VENTURES, P.O. Box 643, Alva FL 33920. TEL: (941) 728-2390, FAX: (941) 728-3276, E-MAIL: <blove@cyberstreet.com>.

Tours: **Road-riding in Costa Rica!** Treat yourself to the trip of a lifetime! Learn about tropical herps, find them, photograph them, see where they live. **Greentracks, Inc.**, offers the best herpetological tours led by internationally acclaimed herpetologists and herpetoculturists. See the Amazon, visit cloud forests, experience the world's greatest rainforest, super sunsets and good company. Call (800) 9-MONKEY.

Wanted: any day geckos (*Phelsuma*), captive-bred only please. Jon Schraer, (612) 894-4763 Sat.–Sun. [MN]

Wanted: Egyptian tortoises (*Testudo kleinmanni*). Dan, (303) 347-0394 (evenings only pleas) or fax (303) 347-1172 (24-hour). [CO]

Wanted: ornate uromastyx for breeding project. (708) 896-1703.

Wanted: outstanding captive-bred or wild caught *Lampropeltis getula floridana (brooksi)*, locality data preferred but not required; all subspecies of *L. zonata*; and *L. triangulum multistriata*, *L. t. sypila* and *L. t. gentilis* with exact locality data. Kirk Setser, 414 Wickham Road, Manhattan KS 66502.

Wanted: legally collected Chicago area northern leopard frogs, adults or tadpoles, for repopulation of a local pond. Dave, (847) 679-1530

Wanted: big-headed turtles; mata mata turtles; Mexican giant mud turtles (*Staurotypus triporcatus*); exceptionally large common snappers (45 lbs. & up); large alligator snappers (over 90 lbs.); spectacled caiman from Trinidad, Tobago and Surinam; dwarf caiman; smooth-fronted caiman; albino turtles (except red-eared sliders). Walt Loose, (610) 926-6028, 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. or after 11:30 P.M. Eastern Time.

Wanted: Styrofoam boxes, any size or shape so long as they're not flimsy, preferably with cardboard liners, willing to pay from \$2 to \$5. Bring to CHS meetings. Scott J. Michaels, D.V.M., Serpent City, (815) 363-0290.

Line ads in this publication are run free for CHS members — \$2 per line for nonmembers. Any ad may be refused at the discretion of the Editor. Submit ads to: Michael Dloogatch, 6048 N. Lawndale Avenue, Chicago IL 60659, (312) 588-0728 evening telephone, (312) 782-2868 fax, E-mail <MADadder0@aol.com>.

News and Announcements

SIXTH ANNUAL REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN BREEDERS' EXPO IN KANSAS CITY

On Sunday, September 29, 1996, the Kansas City Herpetological Society will host its 6th Annual Midwest Reptile and Amphibian Breeders' Expo, to be held at the Park Place Hotel (I-435 and Front Street) in Kansas City, Missouri. The Expo will run from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Captive Bred animals only will be allowed. Absolutely no imports (regardless of origin). For more information call David at (816) 468-5609 or fax (816) 468-8441.



**THE
GOURMET
RODENT™**



RATS AND MICE

Bill & Marcia Brant
6115 SW 137th Avenue
Archer, FL 32618
(904) 495-9024
FAX (904) 495-9781
© All Rights Reserved

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Chicago Herpetological Society will be held at 7:30 P.M., Wednesday, September 25, at the Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive, in Chicago. Dr. Harold Voris of the Field Museum will speak on "Ecology and Evolution on the Tides: The Venomous Sea Snakes." Dr. Voris has been studying the ecology of sea snakes in the waters off Southeast Asia for many years and should have many fascinating insights to share about these abundant but little-known creatures.

At the October 30 meeting, Andy Odum, Curator of Reptiles at the Toledo Zoo, will speak about the endangered Wyoming toad.

We are required to use the entrance on the west side of the museum. We have permission to use the staff parking lot to the west of the museum. Entrance to this lot is from McFetridge Drive, the wide street just to the south, between the museum and Soldier Field. There is also free parking available in the lot to the north of the museum. The #146 CTA bus goes directly to the museum. Unfortunately, it does not operate past 9:00 P.M. However, after the program anyone needing a ride to a CTA stop will have no trouble finding one—just ask any board member.

Turtle Club

The Chicago Turtle Club will meet Sunday, September 22, 1:00–3:30 P.M., at the North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski, in Chicago.

Amphibian Club

The Amphibian Club will meet on Friday, October 4, 7:00 – 9:00 P.M., at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton. Jim Rowan will give a slide talk on frogs. For information on this group, call Dave Golde at (847) 679-1530.

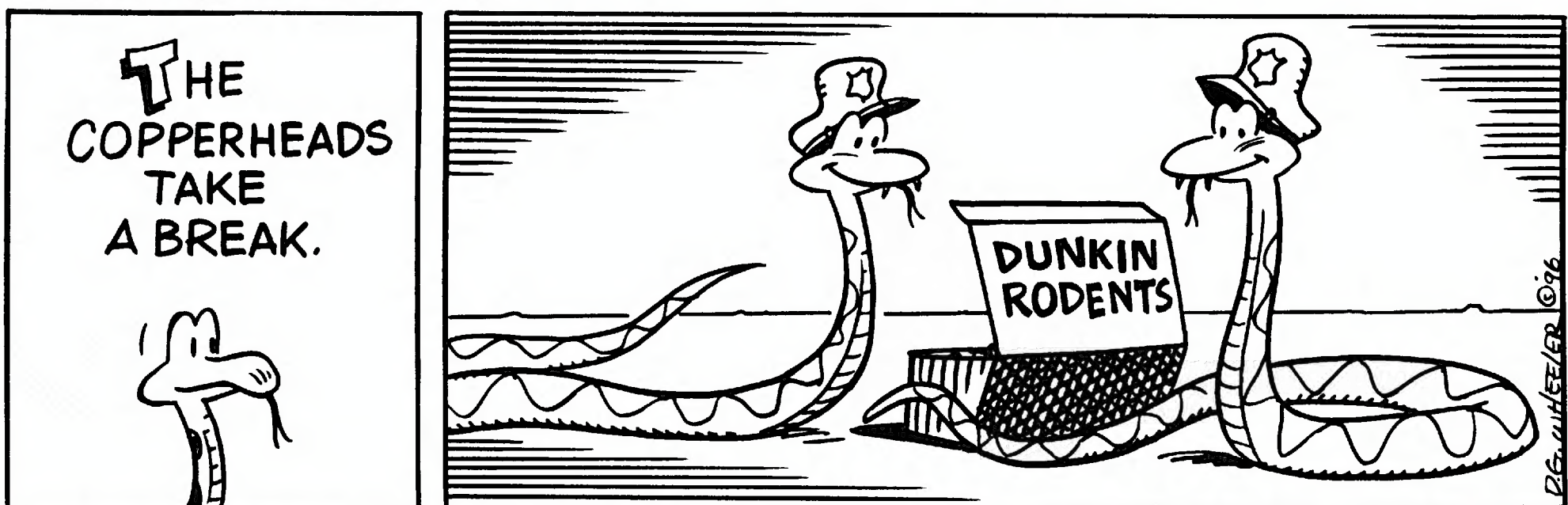
SEPTEMBER 21–22 HERPETOLOGICAL WEEKEND

The Chicago Academy of Sciences currently occupies temporary quarters at North Pier, 465 E. Illinois Street (just across Lake Shore Drive from Navy Pier). This will be the site for the 14th annual HerPETological Weekend put on by the CHS under the auspices of the Academy. The show will take place over the weekend of September 21–22, from 10 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on Saturday and from Noon to 4:30 P.M. on Sunday. We urge all CHS members to bring some of their favorite animals and suitable containers in which to display them. For more details attend the August 28 CHS meeting or phone Ron Humbert at (630) 620-7377.

AMPHIBIAN "QUESTION & ANSWER" COLUMN

Dave Golde would like to begin an amphibian "question & answer" column in the *Bulletin*. This will work out best if he receives some questions from our readers. Write to Dave Golde, 4506 Howard, Skokie IL 60076, or call him at (847) 679-1530.

THE ADVENTURES OF SPOT



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 9869
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

CHICAGO HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Affiliated with the Chicago Academy of Sciences

2060 North Clark Street • Chicago, Illinois 60614